

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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TAGS: EFIN, XL, DR
SUB: US/GODR BILATERAL DISCUSSION

REF: A) SANTO DOMINGO 2301, B) SANTO DOMINGO A-21,

1. IN ADDITION TO POINTS COVERED REFTEL, U.S. AND GODR DELS TO
OAS/CECON MEETING DISCUSSED SUGAR AND DOMINICAN RELATIONS WITH
PUERTO RICO.

2. SUGAR: LUNCHEON PRESENTED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL
DISCUSSION BETWEEN WENDT OF US DEL AND FELIPE VICINI OF DR DEL
RE CURRENT SUGAR PROBLEM-WORLDWIDE, U.S. AND DR. AT CONCLUSION, OF
LUNCHEON, VICINI FOLLOWED UP WITH MORE FORMAL PRESENTATION
PLEADING DOMINICAN CASE ON BROAD BASIS OF ECONOMIC THEORY. HIS
BASIC POINTS WERE THAT A) CURRENT IMPERFECT MARKET SITUATION
SHOULD NOT RESULT IN AIDING INEFFICIENT PRODUCERS TO THE POINT
OF DISCOURAGING THOSE WHO ARE MORE EFFICIENT, AS THIS CAN ONLY
RESULT IN HIGHER PRICES TO CONSUMERS OVER THE LONG : (B) U.S.
SHOULD NOT RELY ON GOVERNMENT-SUBSIDIZED EC OUTPUT AT EXPENSE
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OF NATURALLY EFFICIENT DOMINICAN CAPACITY: C) GENERALIZED SOLU-
TIONS ARE ALWAYS DESIRABLE, BUT IT IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY TO
TAILOR SOLUTIONS TO SPECIFICS OF GIVEN SITUATION (IMPLYING SOME
SORT OF FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION FOR DR). DEPUTY ASSISTANT SEC
ARELLANO RESPONDED BY ACKNOWLEDGING THESEVERITY OF THE SUGAR
PROBLEM, NOTING THE STRONG NATIONAL INTEREST REQUIREMENTS OF ALL
CONCERNED, AND URGING THAT COUNTRIES PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF AN

UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER' POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALITIES.
HE STRESSED THAT U.S. CONTINUES TO VIEW ISA AS THE PREFERRED SOLUTION.

3. GODR/PUERTO RELATIONS: MILTON MESSINA, PRESIDENT OF DOMINICAN FOREIGN TRADE COMMISSION, RAISED THE DETERIORATING STATE OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND PUERTO RICO. HE CITED INCREASING DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY DR IN EXPORTING TOPR, AND CALLED FOR MUTUAL ABROGATION OF "BILATERAL" TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DR AND PR, WHICH, HE SAYS, IS NOT FUNCTIONING (FOR DETAILS, SEE SANTO DOMINGO-21). ACCORDING TO MESSINA, PR PROTECTS ITS MARKETS AGAINST DR EXPORTS WHILE ENJOYING LARGE VOLUME OF SALES TO DOMINICANS. THE PR SALES TO THE DR DO NOT SHOW UP ON TRADE STATISTICS BECAUSE THEY ARE PERSONAL TOURIST PURCHASES MADE BY DOMINICANS VISITING PUERTO RICO. THESE PURCHASES, WHICH ARE SUBSTANTIAL, ARE USUALLY EXCUSED FROM HIGH DOMINICAN IMPORT DUTIES AND FEES WHEN CARRIED INTO THE DR BY RETURNING TRAVELERS. AMONG THE SUGGESTIONS MADE INFORMALLY BY USDEL WAS IDEA THAT DR RAISE DUTY-FREE ALLOWANCE FOR RETURNING DOMINICANS IN EXCHANGE FOR BETTER ACCESS TO PUERTO RICAN MARKET.
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